

"We would see Jesus." Worn with fruitless guessing
And mysteries that have been or will be,
We come at last to Him for light, confessing
"In Jesus Christ alone is verity!"

"We would see Jesus." He gives life its meaning
And saves it from the wasting of its strength:
Thru Him we find the real behind the seeming,
And pass from life to truer life at length.

—New York Observer.

MISSIONS: PROMISES AND PROPHECIES

Psalm 2.

(QUARTERLY MISSIONARY MEETING)

Topic for May 26.

From the beginning of their career as a nation the Jews believed that they were specially chosen by Jehovah to teach the nations about the true God. Deut. 32:8. They looked forward to the time when God himself should come down and dwell in their city Jerusalem and all nations should serve him and the chosen race should dominate the world.

They had indeed a window of revelation but it was narrow and they perished under the light which came thru it because they understood not the light. The psalmist saw the king of Israel ruling from sea to sea, but the apostles saw Jesus exalted that every tongue should confess him as Lord. The prophets saw God's blessings dispensed thru a temporal kingdom, but Jesus preached a spiritual kingdom founded upon love and ruling in the hearts of men.

With the light of 3000 years upon the psalm of our lesson we ought to understand it better than those of former days. The true meaning of the prophecies and of the promises stands out more clearly and we have greater incentives to missionary work. The spirit of love has grown. The light of truth has increased. The knowledge of God is more full, and the condition of the heathen world is better known. In the light of present opportunities indifference to missions is criminal. But if there be interest then activity is inevitable. As a church the Brethren seek to have a full gospel rightly interpreted. We dare not omit the great commission. The faithful observance of the ordinances ought to inculcate such a spirit of humble obedience that the Brethren church shall be the most liberal of all in support of missions. The young people especially are responsible because they are being taught the duty of giving as the past generations have not been.

SCRIPTURE HELP

Promises for workers.

1. Unfailing resources, Matt. 7:7.
2. The faithful guide, John 16:13.
3. A sure reward, Mark 10:30.
4. Power for service, Acts 1:8.
5. Ultimate victory, Matt. 16:18.
6. Future glories, II Tim. 4:7, 8.
7. Christ with us, Matt. 28:19, 20.

Comment on these scriptures and call for other good promises. Let the leader be prepared to add a few.

Why are the promises of God so sure? May we fulfill all the conditions of the promises?

Prophecies.

1. The gospel will be opposed, II Tim. 3:12.
2. Yet evil shall be overcome, Matt. 15:13.
3. In Christ shall all be united, Eph. 1:10.
4. All shall confess him, Phil. 2:10, 11.
5. His kingdom shall be forever, Dan. 2:44, 45.
6. The nations shall come to it, Rev. 21:26.
7. God shall be all in all, I Cor. 15:28.

What are some other prophecies which should encourage us in mission work?

SOME QUESTIONS

1. How does the N. T. idea of missions differ from the old?
2. What chance have the people unreached by the gospel?
4. What assurance have we that mission work pays?

5. Can we claim the promises if we have not obeyed the commands?

6. How do "the heathen rage" today against God?

7. Can we help fulfil the prophecies? How?

8. Can all, old and young, rich and poor, help in mission work? How?

9. About how much ought each one give for missions yearly?

10. What is the best plan for raising mission money?

C. F. YODER.

Christian Life

Rest, Wery Soul

Rest, weary soul!

The penalty is borne, the ransom paid,
For all thy sins full satisfaction made;
Strive not to do thyself what Christ has done,
Claim the free gift, and make the joy thine own;
No more by pangs of guilt and fear distress,
Rest, sweetly rest!

Rest, weary heart,

From all thy silent griefs and secret pain,
Thy profitless regrets and longings vain;
Wisdom and love have ordered all the past,
All shall be blessedness and light at last;
Cast off the cares that have so long oppress;
Rest, sweetly rest!

Rest, weary head!

Lie down to slumber in the peaceful tomb:
Light from above has broken its gloom;
Here, in the place where once thy Savior lay,
Where He shall wake thee on a future day,
Like a tired child upon its mother's breast,
Rest, sweetly rest!

Rest, spirit free!

In the green pastures of the heavenly shore,
Where sin and sorrow can approach no more,
With all the flock of the Good Shepherd fed,
Beside the streams of life eternal led,
Forever with thy God and Savior blest,
Rest, sweetly rest!

—Jane Borthwick.

"CLOSE TO GOD"

THEODORE L. CUYLER

The peace, the purity, and the power of every child of God depend very much upon his or her living very nigh to our heavenly Father. It is well for us not only to sing, "Nearer, my God, to Thee," but also to pray, "Nearer, O God, to me." We are too apt to think of him as dwelling at an infinite distance from us—not as a Father close by us. His actual nearness should be both a solemn caution and a sweet comfort. Not a thought in our inmost heart is concealed from him; not a secret sin we commit that is not as visible to his all-searching eye as the noonday sun. This ought to have a prodigious restraining power upon us.

What a comfort it is that God is so close to us that he is always within speaking distance! A Christian's prayer is not a message dispatched to a far away throne; it is his intimate converse with One near at hand. Childlike faith reverently and lovingly talks with God, breathes confession of sin into his open ear, tells him its secrets, and unbosoms the whole soul to him. In perplexity and trouble we want a helper at hand.

Abraham Lincoln once said: "I have

been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day." What the heroic President often felt amid his distressing perplexities we have often felt in life's dark hours. The child-feeling is awakened in us, and we want an Almighty Father close by us that we can talk to and lean upon. The persecuted apostle in Caesar's judgment hall, with guards in iron mail on every side, realized this cheering truth when he said, "No man stood with me, but all men forsook me: * * * notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me."

The sincere prayer of the Christian is a breathing of the heart's desire into an ear that is close at hand. I do not believe that ear is ever deaf to the humble, honest prayer of faith. Every proper desire from the heart of God's child obtains recognition, and a proper answer in the heart of God himself. The pull of our prayer may not seem to move the everlasting throne, but—like the pull on a line from the bow of a boat—it may draw us into closer fellowship with God, and into fuller harmony with his wise and holy will. When our desires chime with the will of God we are sure to receive some blessing.

If we live near to our heavenly Father, we shall strive to realize his constant companionship. Wherever a devout soul meets God is a sacred spot, whether it be like Jacob's solitary pillar of stone or a Sabbath sanctuary. We ought to make the workshop, the counting room, the study, the kitchen, and the farmer's field sacred with God's presence. The nursery in which the pious mother trains her child is one of God's dwelling places; and I have seen many a sick chamber that was the vestibule of heaven. Happy the pastor who, returning to his study, finds both his Bible open and the mercy seat close beside him, with precious promises strewn thick about it! The nearer he gets to his Lord and Master in that study, the nearer will he get to the hearts of his people, both in his pastoral work and in his pulpit. The man of business who gets a little time with God in the morning, over his Bible or on his knees, will go into the tumult of the day all the stronger. To him the day with prayer will keep it from ravelling out into many a folly or a sin. Stout old Luther used to say that he "could not get on without two hours a day in prayer and close fellowship with God."

The "higher life" is simply living close to God, on the Sabbath in his sanctuary, and thru the week in our dwellings and places of business. It is keeping our citizenship in heaven, and our eyes above the blinding mists of worldliness, and our hearts in close touch with our divine Master. They that thus wait on God shall renew their strength; they shall mount up as eagles. Their outlook is wide; their spiritual atmosphere is bracing; their fellowship with their Father and their Savior is sweet; they rehearse a